CHRISTIAN LIFE AND CHARACTER.

1. The Exercise of Attention in the Development of Christian Character — Phil. 4:8

2. The Christian Soldier (Xn Armor). — Ephes. 6:13-18.

3. The Prophetic Element in Xn Life and Activity. — Deut. 34:10. Nu. 11:29.

4.

4. With Jesus. — Acts. 4:13.

5. The Influence of Christians. — Dan. 12:3

6. Our Life in Christ. — Col. 3:3-4.

7. The First Christians. — Acts 11:26.

8. Christian Endurance — Matt. 10:22

9. The Training of Conscience. — Acts 24:16.

10. The Xn Standard of Right Living. — John 14:15.

11. Decision and Xn Character — 1 Cor. 16:13

Sermon Outline. Col. 3 3, 4.

Our Life in Christ.

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"For ye died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory."

Col. 3 3, 4.

In order to catch the full significance which the Apostle Paul attached to the words of the text, we must collect the thought of the epistle from which they are taken. Upon hearing from Epaphras concerning the conditions and needs of the Colossians, Paul, during his first imprisonment at Rome, wrote them a letter of great comfort and special warning. The first twelve verses are devoted to salutation, thanksgiving, and prayer. The rest of chapter one through the seventh

verse of chapter two sets forth the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. Christ is the image of the invisible God and the head of the church, in whom dwells the fulness of the Godhead. In Christ, all things have been created, and in Him, all things are to be consummated; hence in Him, are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden. Since we have our redemption and the forgiveness of our sins in Christ, and since we realize our own fulness in Him, the Colossians who had received Jesus Christ are urged by Paul, to walk in Him, and become rooted and builded up in Him and established in their faith, even as they had been taught. Chapter two verse eight to

chapter three verse four contains the special warning to the Colossians against certain strange philosophies which had come in their midst and which threatened to undermine their faith. Exactly what these teachings were we do not know; but to all appearances they were a mixture of gnosticism and Essenism. The apostle dismisses the subject of his warning abruptly by lifting his readers above it all, in the following sublime utterance;

"If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above and not on the things that are upon

the earth. For ye died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory."

In our own midst and time hundreds of strange philosophies threaten to undermine our simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not necessary for me to enumerate them. Many, however, have already been led astray by them. We are being pressed on all sides by a multitude of false interpreters of life. Paul's Epistle to the Colossians was never so comforting as is is to the Christians of today. Nor was its note of

warning ever more timely than at present. A careful consideration of our own life hidden and revealed in Christ will at once free us from all entanglement with modern human philosophy and set our attention on that knowledge and wisdom which is spiritual and eternal.

I. Our life hidden in Christ.

1. The significance of our conversion.
   a- That we died unto sin, in X. Rom. 6[11].
   b- That we were made alive in Christ Jesus. Gal. 2[20].
2. Our fulness is in Jesus Christ. Col. 2[10,12].

In Christ is our salvation, our hope, our goal in life, our perfection, our all in all. Phil. 1[21].

II. Our life manifested in Christ.

1. Here upon earth.

a - By putting off the old life of sin. Col. 3[5]

b - By putting on the new life of righteousness. Col. 5[12]. 1 Peter 1[15].

2. With Christ in Glory.

Jn 17[28]; 1 Jn. 3[2]; Phil. 3[21].

Conclusion. Jesus Christ is our Way, our Truth, and our Life. Since our life is hid in Him and since we are to enter with Him into His glory, let us seek the things that are above where Christ is, and let us, in all our manner of living, aim to develop a Christ-like character in accordance with the righteousness and the holiness of our Savior.